

## ■ Acreage Harvested of Major Crops

The harvested acreage of corn in recent years has varied from 51.5 million acres in 1983 to 75.2 million acres in 1985, largely as the result of Federal acreage reduction programs. The PIK program idled nearly 22 million acres of corn acreage in 1983. Wheat acreage has ranged between a high of 80.6 million acres in 1981 to a low of 53.2 million acres in 1988. The PIK program removed about 18 million acres of wheat base from production in 1983. Barley and oat acreage harvested have been declining since the early 1970's. Acreage has tended to shift out barley and oats to the more profitable crops. Soybean acreage harvested has fluctuated as the relative prices of soybeans and corn changed and as prices for soybeans in the world market were more or less favorable. Soybean acreage was at a 24-year high in 1998, at 70.8 acres.

Figure 2-2.

Major uses of U.S. cropland, 1974-98

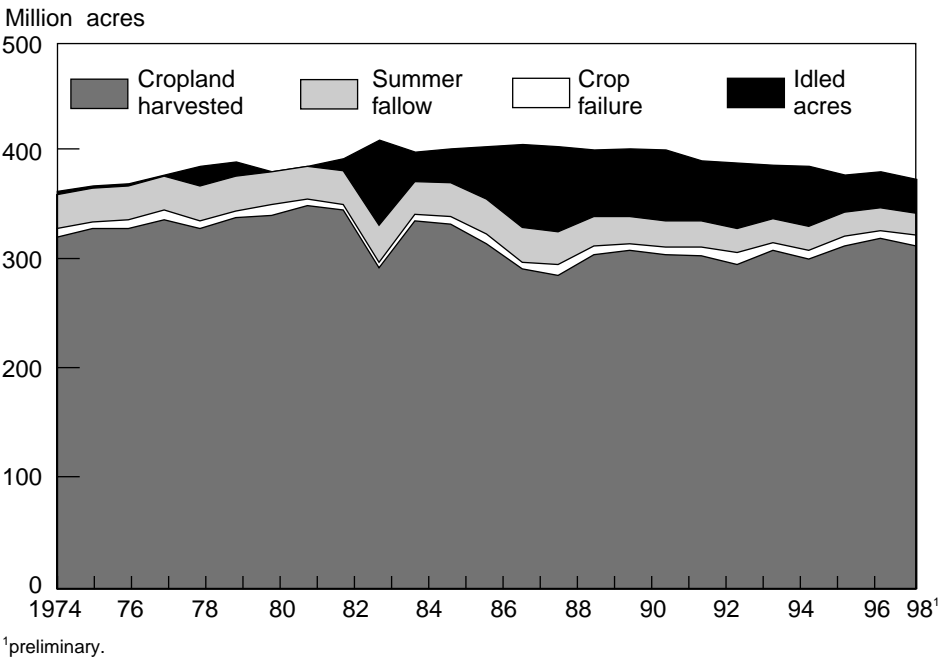
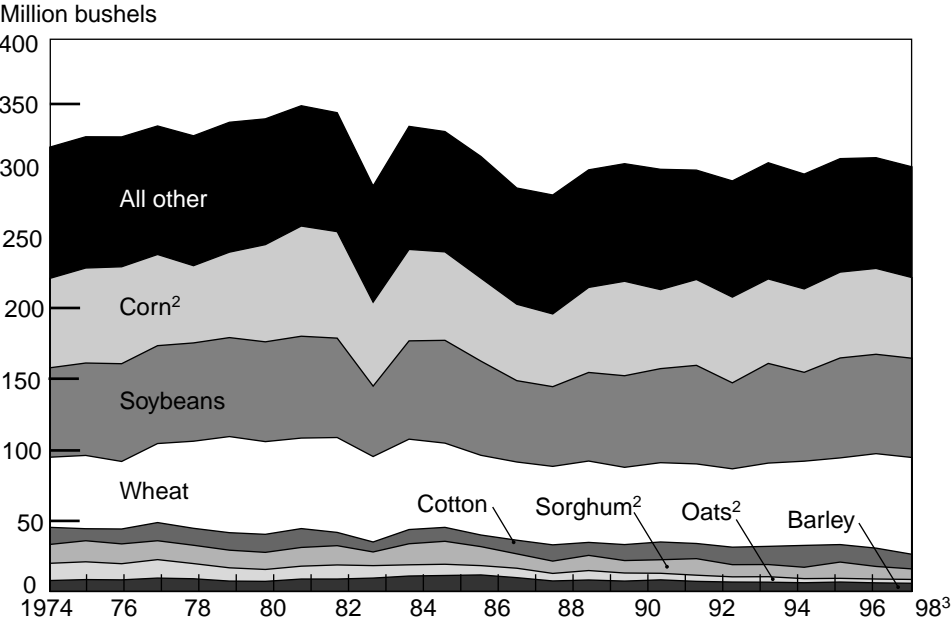


Figure 2-3.  
Acreage harvested of specified crops, 1974-98<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Includes the 48 conterminous States.

<sup>2</sup>Corn and sorghum for grain.

<sup>3</sup>Preliminary.